

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION
of the 111th Congress¹**

[Date approved: April 8, 2010]²

Bill No. and sponsor: S. 1811 (Mr. Carl Levin of Michigan).

Proponent name,³ location: Howard Miller Clock Company, Zeeland, MI.

Other bills on product (111th Congress only): None.

Nature of bill: Temporary duty suspension through December 31, 2011.

Retroactive effect: None.

Suggested article description(s) for enactment (including appropriate HTS subheading(s)):

Chime melody rod assemblies (provided for in subheading 9114.90.50) for the production of grandfather clocks, wall clocks, and mantel clocks.

Check one: ☐ Same as that in bill as introduced.
 ☒ Different from that in bill as introduced (see Technical comments section).

Product information, including uses/applications and source(s) of imports:

The chime melody rod assembly consists of chime rods of such length that each plays a specific musical note. The series of chimes are inserted into a single cast block. The cast block is unique and produces an ideal combination of frequency, volume, and resonance. Each chime rod is produced from special steel and machined with a unique cone tip, heat treated to alter the steel's mechanical properties, tuned, and protected against rust and corrosion. Most fine quality chime melody rod assemblies are produced in Germany.

¹ Industry analyst preparing report: Ralph Watkins (202-205-3492); Tariff Affairs contact: Daniel Shepherdson (202-205-2598).

² Access to an electronic copy of this memorandum is available at http://www.usitc.gov/tariff_affairs/congress_reports/.

³ The sponsor identified four additional beneficiaries of this bill. USITC staff sent inquiries to the additional beneficiaries and received responses from one. That company submitted a written representation that it would benefit from the bill. In addition, USITC staff identified ten potential additional beneficiaries, one of which submitted a written representation that it would benefit from the bill.

Estimated effect on customs revenue for the subject product classifiable in HTS subheading 9114.90.50:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Col. 1-General rate of duty	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports ^a	\$395,000	\$395,000	\$395,000	\$395,000	\$395,000
Customs revenue loss ^b	\$16,590	\$16,590	\$16,590	\$16,590	\$16,590

a/ Dutiable import estimates were provided by industry sources.

b/ At the request of Congress, customs revenue loss is provided for 5 years, although the effective period of the proposed legislation may differ.

Contacts with domestic firms/organizations (including the proponent):

Name of firm/organization	Date contacted	Claim US makes same or competing product(s)?	Submission attached?	Opposition noted?
		(Yes/No)		
Howard Miller Clock Company (Proponent) Mike Wallace, 616-772-7277 ext. 218	12/1/2009	No	No	No
Black Forest Imports, Inc. Peter Lickl, peter@blackforestimports.com	12/1/2009	No	No	No
Bradford Clocks 570-427-4493	12/2/2009	No	No	No
Brandywine Clock Gineon Stolzhus, 610-273-3395	12/2/2009	No	No	No
Butterworth Clocks Mark Butterworth, 563-263-759	12/2/2009	No	No	No
Clock Works clockworks@clockworks.com	12/1/2009	No	No	No
Hermle Black Forest Clocks Bill Mongold, 434-946-7751	12/1/2009	No	No	No
Klockit 800-556-2548	12/1/2009	No	No	No
Merritt Antiques Kim Pribish, 610-689-9541 ext. 254 Kim@merritts.com	12/1/2009	No	No	No
New Hampshire Clocks Donna, 1-800-808-9871, donna@nhclocks.com	12/1/2009	No	No	No
Primex 800-544-0909	12/2/2009	No	No	No
R & M Imports Randy Thatcher, 513-897-5015	12/2/2009	No	No	No

Name of firm/organization	Date contacted	Claim US makes same or competing product(s)?	Submission attached?	Opposition noted?
		(Yes/No)		
Ridgeway Clock Co. John Oren, rwsales@ridgewayclocks.com	12/1/2009	No	No	No
Wood Ease 866-648-3334	12/1/2009	No	No	No

Technical comments:⁴

Based on conversations with the sponsor's staff, the Commission staff suggests that the article description on page 1 of this report be used in the proposed duty suspension in order to limit the duty suspension to chimes that are used in the production of grandfather, wall, and mantel clocks. Chimes used in the production of other types of clocks are not intended to be covered by the duty suspension.

⁴ The Commission may express an opinion on the HTS classification of a product to facilitate consideration of the bill. However, by law, only the U.S. Customs Service is authorized to issue a binding ruling on this matter. The Commission believes that the U.S. Customs Service should be consulted prior to enactment of the bill.

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1811

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain chime rod assemblies.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 20, 2009

Mr. LEVIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain chime rod
assemblies.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CHIME ROD ASSEMBLIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of
5 the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is
6 amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following
7 new heading:

“	9902.01.00	Chime rod assemblies for clocks (provided for in sub- heading 9114.90.50)	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2011	”.
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8 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
9 subsection (a) applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from

- 1 warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after
- 2 the date of the enactment of this Act.

